

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-6001
2 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Hong Kong Bureau -- December 1985

I. GENERAL

A. On 10 December Ji Pengfei, Chinese state councillor for Hong Kong and Macao affairs and the highest level PRC official to visit Hong Kong, began a 13-day visit here. He arrived with Hong Kong still reverberating from the shockwaves set off last month by Hong Kong New China News Agency leader Xu Jiatun's criticism of the governmental reform process. Ji met with various senior government officials as well as local groups. He offered reassuring words about Hong Kong's autonomy and preservation of lifestyle without being drawn into substantive comments about the form of the Hong Kong government after 1997. The Hong Kong media reported that Ji's visit had helped calm the atmosphere but left many questions unanswered.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The upcoming elections accounted for the majority of the bureau's reporting on the Philippines this month. With Marcos' signing of the snap election bill on 2 December, maneuvering for the election began in earnest. Cory Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, immediately announced her candidacy for the presidency. Another major opposition leader, Salvador Laurel, at first accepted Cory's vice presidency slot but then disagreed with her over which party label they would run under. By 11 December Aquino and Laurel reached an agreement to unify the opposition, with Laurel once again accepting the vice presidency. Meanwhile, Marcos was proclaimed the official KBL (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan) presidential candidate. He selected as his running

mate, Arturo Tolentino whom he had dismissed as his foreign minister earlier in the year for being critical of his policies.

As the campaign heated up, Marcos hit the hustings and made at least 7 speeches in 20 days. Requirements from Headquarters for texting his speeches and Marcos' penchant to mix English with Tagalog while occasionally lapsing into Ilocano combined with poor radio reception particularly in the evening has presented a challenge to our monitors. In an effort to improve our coverage of the Philippines, Hong Kong monitor [] TDYd to Clark AFB 9-26 December to participate in a two-part survey. Okinawa monitor [] TDYd to the bureau to fill in as the Tagalog monitor.

[] will remain at the bureau until the second part of the survey (13-22 Jan) is completed. Having her as well as [] here for the last week in December during Marcos' speechmaking has made the workload more manageable. Her commendable contribution has been most welcome.

2. The bureau renewed its six-month trial subscription to the Wellington EVENING POST. We had added THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD to our coverage in November. However, this latter source is not proving as productive as had been anticipated.

3. Increased reporting on the Philippines and year-end leave caused a large editing backlog. The bureau arranged with NEAD/JPRS to take over part of the editing of the contract translations done here. Some 55,000 words from HONGKONG and the economic journals were sent to NEAD during the month.

B. Communications

The bureau experienced two lengthy communication outages during the month. The first was due to computer repairs at Clark; the second, to an apparent modem problem at the Consulate's TCU.

D. Technical

1. Because the Philippine radios do not always announce when they will carry a Marcos speech, the bureau installed a speaker at the Tagalog monitor's desk. This has enabled the monitor to work at her desk and still maintain an open speaker watch on Philippine radios rather than be in the radio room.

2. Cabling for the bureau's landline circuit is all in except for a short segment between Mt. Butler and the Causeway Bay switch. We expect the terminal equipment to be installed and hooked up in January, with operation of the system still anticipated for March, the original target date.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Promotions for five foreign national employees, []

announced at the bureau's Christmas Eve social. A gift was also presented to [] for her upcoming wedding to [] a former bureau employee.

2. The bureau advertised its new administrative assistant position during the month. We received fifteen applications, 10 from within the Consulate, and we are now interviewing prospective candidates.

B. Building and Grounds

The bureau received approval from Headquarters and Security to use a local contractor to manufacture and install security doors on the back stairway exit doors. We are preparing a contract for the work.

IV. VISITS

A. To the Bureau

1. Okinawa monitor [] arrived on 6 December for TDY.

2. [] to the Philippines for a radio survey, 9-26 December.

3. [] on their way back to Okinawa.

4. Okinawa editor [] and editor trainee [] on 13 December while on private travel.

5. Micheal Gelner, political officer from the Beijing Embassy, and Marie Huhtala, political officer from the Hong Kong Consulate General, on 27 December for a briefing and bureau tour.

B. From the Bureau

The deputy bureau chief to Bangkok Bureau on 20 December while on private travel.

[]
Acting Bureau Chief

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

cc: Original and 3 - Hqs

- 1 - C/Bangkok
- 1 - C/Okinawa
- 1 - C/Seoul